

## American exhibition *Travel Diaries* at the Mohammed VI Museum in Rabat

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In a whirlwind of colors, textures and emotions, the exhibition *Travel Diaries* invites us into a universe where art meets the world, where every brushstroke tells a story of travel, discovery and creativity.

The Musée Mohammed VI d'art moderne et contemporain (MMVI), accustomed to hosting works by major Moroccan and international artists, is currently opening its doors to works by four internationally renowned contemporary painters from New York.

*Travel Diaries* brings together unique creations by Francesco Clemente, Brice Marden, Helen Marden and Julian Schnabel. Organized by the National Museums Foundation and the Vito Schnabel Gallery, this exhibition takes visitors on a visual journey through the artistic experiences and explorations of four artists who have traveled the world, drawing inspiration from a wide variety of cultures.

Curated by Vito Schnabel, son of Julian Schnabel, *Travel Diaries* celebrates the cultural diversity and encounters that have enriched their artistic practice. "The distinctive qualities of the works of these four artists, with whom I have been closely associated throughout my life, show that painting and sensibility can coexist through dialogue despite apparent aesthetic differences, resonating together like voices in a choir drawing on the infinite possibilities of inspiration, curiosity, travel and desire, where the familiar and the unknown find a new home. The family dimension of this exhibition can only be fully appreciated by understanding the lively dialogue shared by these four artists in life and art," says Vito Schnabel.

According to Mehdi Qotbi, Chairman of the National Museums Foundation, these artists have a rich history and are among the most important. "They have rubbed shoulders with Bob Dylan, Ornette Coleman, Andy Warhol, Allen Ginsberg and many others. It's this diversity of influences that we

find in their creations, imbued with a singular vision and profound sensitivity. They have explored new paths, pushed back the boundaries of expression and helped redefine the contemporary American artistic landscape. As its name suggests, this exhibition is akin to a travel diary in which the eyes of each artist meet, offering the public a stopover in untouched memories, finely reflected on canvas.”

**Francesco Clemente**, whose formative years in India shaped his artistic language, presents works rich in emblems and symbols from Eastern and Western mystical traditions. His travels in Afghanistan, China, Brazil, North Africa and the Caribbean have nourished his exploration of identity, spirituality and mythology.

**Brice Marden**, a master of gesture and color, fuses the influences of minimalism and abstract expressionism with calligraphy, the result of his many travels around the globe. His canvases captivate with their subtle marriage of structure and emotion, reflecting the interior and exterior landscapes he has encountered on his travels. Brice Marden was born in Bronxville in 1938 and died at 83 in 2023. He continually refined and extended the traditions of lyrical abstraction.

**Helen Marden** draws her inspiration from nature and organic elements, creating vividly colored biomorphic forms inspired by her travels. Her works evoke the raw beauty of landscapes encountered and breathe new life into expressionist abstraction.

**Julian Schnabel**, renowned for his daring style and radical reinvention of artistic materials, presents works that push the boundaries of traditional painting. His travels and personal experiences manifest themselves in textured surfaces and dynamic compositions, offering a unique take on the world around him.

The exhibition *Travel Diaries* is much more than a simple presentation of works of art; it is a living testimony to the way in which travel can shape artistic identity and nurture creativity. By inviting visitors to explore the unique worlds of Francesco Clemente, Brice Marden, Helen Marden, and Julian Schnabel, the exhibition offers an immersive experience that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, reminding us that art is a universal language that unites people from all over the world.